

For 28 years, the Oak Lawn Elks have honored the importance of the American flag to the history and future of the United States. In my speech at this ceremony, I spoke about the American flag and its history of inspiring hope and faith in this country as well as abroad. In her eloquent patriotic address, the Honorable Maureen Murphy, State representative, spoke about the importance of voter participation and registration. Her call for action and words of wisdom were truly awe inspiring and symbolic of great nationalism. The Oak Lawn Elks embody that true American spirit. I was especially moved to see the eight original American flags in addition to flags representing the armed services.

I would like to pay special tribute to James Fealey, chairman of the Flag Day ceremony, in addition to the officers for 1996–1997, William J. Spratt, exalted ruler; Robert Richter, leading knight; George Kerr, loyal knight; Tony Kasper, lecturing knight; Jerome Lullo, treasurer; Donald Nowak, tiler; Norman A. Gates, esquire; Jack Snow, chaplain; Dave Sonne, inner guard; Cornelius J. Houtsma, presiding justice; William P. Holm, John Prisco, James Fernatt, Kevin G. Kennedy and William Skinner, the board of trustees.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Oak Lawn Elks for continuing their tradition of patriotism and wish them the very best in the years to come. I am proud and honored to represent the Oak Lawn Elks in Congress. Their energetic salute to the flag is an event I took forward to each year.

A TRIBUTE TO DONNA LYNCH

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to give tribute to an outstanding individual on her being nominated grand marshal for the Fourth of July celebration in Rosebush, MI.

Donna Burch was 1 of 15 children born to a farming family in Rosebush, MI. Both her and her future husband, Terry, attended Mt. Pleasant High School and shortly after graduation, in 1955, they were married. Today they are the proud parents of eight children, and Donna is best known as the home cooking inspiration of the White Wagon Restaurant and Motel.

Donna is more than just a proud mother and successful restaurateur, she is also a humanitarian and public servant. She is always ready to help organize fundraisers for good causes or to provide food and comfort for a family in need. To know Donna Lynch is a wonderful experience. Being quick with a hug, this busy, hard-working woman is a pure pleasure to be with. Easy to laugh and enjoy a good joke; yet tough enough to get the job done.

It is work such as Donna's, both for her family and for the community, that inspires us all to achieve the best we can, and to promote these qualities in others. Mr. Speaker, I know you will join my colleagues and me in honoring the work of Mrs. Donna Lynch and the legacy of service and commitment she has left for us all.

THE AMERICAN VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY RESEARCH NETWORK

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, a very important conference took place last week in Washington, DC. Its purpose was to create the foundation of the American Viticulture and Enology Research Network [AVERN].

AVERN is a new private-State-Federal partnership composed of wine industry leaders and researchers that could be a model for all of agriculture. I was proud to lead the effort to encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture to participate in this network, which should lead to an efficient allocation of resources that will well serve our producers and the taxpayers.

This week, the leaders of AVERN have put in place the network to coordinate the solicitation of problems and needs from the industry nationwide. This network will further define those problems and identify potential solutions. It will prioritize the needs on a national basis and then set up the mechanisms to search for funding to solve these problems on a national level.

Another initiative integral to the wine industry is the Pacific Northwest Small Fruits Research Center. I have worked to ensure Federal funding for it, because I believe this is the kind of investment the Federal Government should be making. It is important to note that this center is also financially supported by the grape and wine growers and those who produce other berries including strawberries, blackberries, boysenberries, and cranberries.

Federal investment in research is extremely cost effective. Both AVERN and the Small Fruits Research Center are outstanding programs and I commend everyone involved with them.

TRIBUTE TO BOB SWEET, CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an entrepreneur and community leader who has made a career out of giving back to the community in which he lives. The man I am speaking of is my good friend and constituent Bob Sweet of Alum Bank, PA. Today is a special day for Bob and his family as he is being recognized as the Bedford Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year.

After graduating from Pasadena High School, Bob went on to earn a bachelor of science degree in 1959 from the University of the Pacific in California. Upon graduation from college, Bob started what has proved to be an extremely impressive and lucrative career in business. His first job was as a sales representative for Dow Chemical Co. After 3 successful years with Dow, Bob moved onward and upward accepting a position with Westinghouse in 1962. He worked for Westinghouse for a 10-year stint in which he continued to make his way up through the ranks of the corporation.

Bob found himself at a turning point in his life when in 1972 Westinghouse transferred him to Bedford, PA. In December of that year he made the momentous decision to take his years of experience in corporate America and boldly go out into the private sector to start his own company which he called Creative Pultrusions Inc. Creative Pultrusions was born with one order from General Motors. General Motors asked the company to develop an intricate prototype pultrusion system and gave them a strict deadline in which they were required to meet. Through the leadership and drive of Bob Sweet, Creative Pultrusions fulfilled the order and got the ball rolling on what today is a multimillion dollar company which employs more than 250 people in Bedford County. Creative Pultrusions has also continued to expand over the years and just recently opened a sales office in Northants, England and a distribution center in the Netherlands.

Bob Sweet's impact on Bedford County does not stop simply at his contributions through his business life. He has been a proven community leader as well, with a long list of groups which he has devoted a great deal of his personal time toward. To name a few, these groups include the Chestnut Hill School Board, the Memorial Hospital of Bedford County Board of Directors, the Bedford United Way, and this Bedford Rotary Club.

Whether serving his customers, his colleagues, or the residents of Bedford County, Bob Sweet has built a reputation as man of his word who is always there for his friends and neighbors. Bob's wife Margie has been his partner and helper and the rock upon which his family and successes have been built. I will close on a personal note in thanking Bob for the many years of friendship and guidance which he has given both myself and my family and by congratulating him on this very special evening.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES W. HYATT

HON. BILL PAXON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 1996

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, on the 1st of June, western New York and the city of Buffalo lost one of our most respected business and community leaders, Charles W. Hyatt.

Charles Hyatt's story is an American story. Charles was a Bronze Star decorated veteran of the U.S. Army. Charles Hyatt served during World War II in the U.S. Army Signal Corps with Gen. George Patton's troops in 1944.

Charles Hyatt began his start in business as a sales representative for an art supply store in Buffalo, NY. He worked hard, learned the business, and in 1959 founded his own company, the Hyatt Graphic Supply Co. For the past 36 years, Hyatt's has provided arts and graphics supplies for teachers, painters, and artists throughout the city of Buffalo, Rochester, and western New York.

Charles Hyatt earned a national reputation as a business leader. He was named the 1988 Man of the Year for the National Art Material Association and was inducted into the association's Hall of Fame. Charles also was an active leader in his community, working closely throughout his lifetime with western New York service and charitable organizations.